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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A resurfacing type of total knee prosthesis is disclosed which also provides a posterior stabilization function over the entire range of flexion. The knee prosthesis provides primary or supplementary posterior stabilization of the reconstructed knee joint by means of a unique mechanical cam/follower mechanism, which is integrated within the medial and lateral distal condyles of the femoral component to provide functional compensation for lost, resected or incompetent posterior cruciate ligaments or to work in conjunction with surgically retained viable or questionably viable cruciate ligament structures of the reconstructed knee joint. The invention extends to prostheses including a hinge ^{connection} ~~means~~ that defines a posterior stabilization ^{construction} ~~means~~ separate from that defined by the condyles. One embodiment of the invention extends individually to the posterior stabilizing hinge ^{assembly} ~~means~~.